

VIETNAM COURIER

January 6

1969

No. 198

6th Year

Information Weekly - E.O. : 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi - Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

Beloved compatriots and fighters,

1968 was a year of very glorious victories for our armed forces and people throughout the country. The U.S. imperialists had to end unconditionally their war of destruction in the North.

Since early Spring 1968, our compatriots and fighters in heroic South Viet Nam have been mounting new after wave of attacks and uprisings which have all recorded very brilliant successes.

Certainly the U.S. aggressors will meet with total failure. Our armed forces and people throughout the country, carried forward by the impetus of their victories, will without doubt achieve complete triumph.

On the occasion of New Year 1969, on behalf of our entire people, I wish to convey my warm greetings and thanks to the brotherly socialist countries, friendly countries and peace- and justice-loving people in the world, including the progressive people in the United States, for their wholehearted support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

I cordially send my best wishes of solidarity, struggle and success in the New Year to our fellow-countrymen, fighters and cadres and Chinese residents in both South and North Viet Nam, and to our national abroad.

I dedicate the following lines to the new Spring:

Last year was full of glorious victories.

This year the forefront's sure to win still bigger ones.

For Independence, for Freedom,

Let's fight so the Yanks quit, and the puppets topple.

Forward! Fighters, countrymen!

North and South reunited, could there be happier Spring!

Spring 1969

HO CHI MINH



President Ho Chi Minh
venerated leader of the Vietnamese people

Happy New Year

VIET NAM COURIER

FORWARD TO WIN COMPLETE VICTORY!

(abridged translation from NHAN DAN Editorial on Jan. 1, 1969)

1968 was a year of unprecedentedly big and allround successes for the Vietnamese people's fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. It marked a great turning point, opening a new stage of the struggle: one of general offensives and widespread uprisings at the great front, one of vigorous and steep strides of the Vietnamese people toward complete victory. 1968 was a "Year of the Hammer and Sledge" for the people of many countries and at many important international conference. 1968 was a great year in the history of our nation's resistance to U.S. aggression for national salvation. It has had a deep impact on our struggle and the revolutionary struggle of the whole progressive mankind.

1968 was a year of very brilliant achievements for the armed forces and people throughout our country.

In South Viet Nam, after driving 1.1 million enemy troops onto the defensive the patriotic armed forces

and peoples sprang a most daring awe-inspiring strategic surprise attack; the early Spring sweeping general offensive and simultaneous uprisings. The U.S. aggressors and their henchmen were caught napping and struck with fright. The world was shaken and filled with admiration. The hide-outs of the U.S.-puppets in all towns and cities, almost all provincial capitals and district towns, military sectors, hundreds of airfields, base camps, and strongholds of the enemy came under stormy and repeated attacks; the puppet army and administration was swept away by chunks and became crumpled from top to bottom.

The series of attacks following the Lunar New Year Festival on February 17 and 18 and others in early March dealt a mortal blow at the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, wiping out or disbanding one-third of the total of U.S. puppet and satellite forces, putting out of action or heavily decimating one-third of the number of puppet battalions, destroying two-fifths of the total of aircraft, one-third of the ar-

moured cars and half the logistical reserves of the U.S. aggressors, liberating 100 more villages and more than 600 additional hamlets (between January 30 and March 15).

The defeat of the U.S. in both the military and political fields became transparent and its war of aggression was irretrievably doomed. This was evidenced by the dismissal of W.C. Westmoreland and Johnson's withdrawal from the presidential election and his order on the "limited bombing" of North Viet Nam.

Again in May, the South Viet Nam PLAF struck a hammer blow at the gaping wound of the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys. Launched at a time when the U.S.-pup-

pets had considerably strengthened their defences, these powerful and simultaneous attacks which lasted many days in a row and set new records in terms of enemy manpower and war materials destroyed, particularly the daring assaults on the Saigon Cholon-Gia Dinh area, proved the extraordinary growth of the South Viet Nam revolution and the losing position of the enemy who from now on can never recover from his defeat. These attacks also signalled the failure of the U.S. "clear-and-hold" strategy.

Together with the May actions, the Khe Sanh victory bore a tremendous significance. It showed that the South

Viet Nam armed forces and people had become strong enough to mount series of powerful strikes right on the enemy's hide-outs in the cities and, at the same time, to dislodge him from his most strongly fortified positions. The Khe Sanh siege has smashed the "symbol" of U.S. aggressive determination.

As the reverberations of the Khe Sanh victory were still ringing throughout the world, the PLAF struck again in August and September. Enemy sanctuaries in 30 cities and provincial capitals, more than 200 townships, district capitals and military

(Continued page 2)

SOUTH VIET NAM

11 ENEMY COMPANIES WIPED OUT IN 7 DAYS ON SAIGON FRONT

(Page 11)



PLAF men en route to attack Thien Ngan Post (Tay Ninh Province)

FORWARD TO WIN COMPLETE VICTORY

(Continued from page 1)

sub-sectors nearly 30 airfields and hundreds of storage areas were assaulted ferociously and repeatedly. This was a warning to their defence "in depth" strategy was doomed and no "defence" of any kind could save them from inevitable failure.

In the past few months, there have been more crushing blows dealt at the enemy in his defensive position. At present, the South Viet Nam patriotic forces and people are discharging forward to greater victories, continuing attacking the enemy in his lairs in the towns and cities, wiping out his forces at his defence lines, beating off his operations under the "accelerated pacification" plan while specially building revolutionary power in vast areas. The U.S. aggressors are haunted day and night by a new offensive drive of the People's Liberation Armed Forces of which they know neither the direction nor the time.

In the North, we foiled every frantic step of war escalation taken by the U.S. aggressors, fighting while stepping up socialist construction and wholeheartedly supporting our kindred South.

The North Vietnamese armed forces and people have pushed U.S. planes down the 3,200th plane, while boosting production expanding the network of local industries, overcoming the difficulties caused by natural calamities and enemy destruction, keeping communications open, maintaining order and security and furthering culture, education and public health. Patriotism, socialist ideology, and revolutionary heroism have become the motive of the daily deeds of our people, especially those in the southern provinces near the military demarcation line. Our people's fight in both parts of the country has won the U.S. war of destruction against the North. We have forced them to limit and then stop unconditionally

their bombardments on the whole territory of North Viet Nam.

In the world at large, a popular front in solidarity with, and support for, Viet Nam's fight against the U.S. imperialist aggression has in fact taken shape and is gaining in scope and strength. The governments and peoples of the fraternal socialist countries have continued supporting and actively assisting our people both morally and materially, and reaffirmed their all-round assistance as long as necessary, until the U.S. aggressors' total defeat. The movement of the world's peoples, including the progressive American people, to support Viet Nam has developed far and wide, bringing us all-sided support and assistance.

1968 has brought about a dramatic change in the balance of forces between the Vietnamese people and the enemy.

Militarily, the two strategic forces of the enemy on the battlefield — the U.S. and puppet troops — have been both badly mauled. Their losses in manpower and weapons are irreplaceable and their fighting efficiency is dropping markedly. The U.S. aggressor army has found itself in a position where it is constantly attacked and encircled strategically all over the battlefield and has got into an impasse, both strategical and tactical.

As far as they are concerned, the three kinds of armed forces of the South Viet Nam people's liberation armed forces have tremendously increased in numbers and quality and perfected their combat methods.

The PLAF and South Vietnamese people have brought war to the last dens of the enemy in cities and towns, are keeping up the offensive and besieging the enemy strategically and are in a position to attack the enemy whenever and wherever they like.

The immediate rear area of our people's fight has expanded into four-fifths of South Viet Nam's territory, whereas the U.S. and its puppets have lost nearly all their footholds and sources of manpower and materials.

Politically, the puppet administration and army — the prop for the U.S. war of aggression — have broken down and become useless. The aggressors and the traitors are facing utter isolation amidst the sea of people's war in South Viet Nam, and critically isolated in the world.

Meanwhile, the political forces of the South Vietnamese people have been growing at an unprecedented rate. The national unity bloc has become stronger and firmer with the emergence of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces and with the expansion of the ranks of the organisations in the National Front for Liberation. Revolutionary power has been set up in many places. The justice of our cause, the prestige, strength, and role of the

National Front for Liberation stand out more and more strikingly. Progressive mankind unanimously holds that the Front is the master of the situation in South Viet Nam and the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people.

Morally, all over the great front prevails a high determination to fight for independence and freedom. A great campaign is unfolding aimed at the complete defeat of the U.S. aggressors and their flunkies. The realities of the fighting have brought home to the South Viet Nam armed forces and people the weakness of the enemy and their own capability of defeating them. Many valuable experiences for new battles have been drawn. The morale of the U.S. and puppets is alarmingly cracking. Their soldiers are war weary, playing a losing game, and the morale of the U.S. imperialist aggressive will has been shaken seriously. The fact that they are considering the contribution of American involvement is an acknowledgement of the unsoundness and bankruptcy of their policy of consulting U.S. expeditionary troops to South Viet Nam to stave off the puppet army and administration's collapse.

The drastic shift in the balance of forces between the Vietnamese people and the enemy plus many difficulties the latter has encountered in the economic and financial fields as well as in their global strategy, have forced the U.S. aggressors to accept two new significant setbacks: they had to stop unconditionally their bombardments on the whole territory of North Viet Nam and agree to talks with the representatives of the National Front for Liberation in Paris to find ways to end the war. This is the logical result of their all-round failures in both parts of our country. This is the beginning of the process of their total failure. Reality has taught them that they have but one way, that is to accept defeat and bring their troops home. No matter how fanatically they may struggle their total discomfiture is inescapable.

Nobody would believe that a few years back the mass singing movement was almost unknown in Hai Xuan. By the middle of 1965 the Party Committee decided to act in this field. A teacher of music was invited to the village. People came to learn music in numbers as an irrigation project-building bee. Even members of the church band who played wind-instruments only by ear now also attended classes to learn new songs of a musical theory. They told one another: "We who can play church music must play resistance songs better."

Three months later, after the music class closed, Hai Xuan's singing movement made giant's strides. Eight dignitaries of the eight churches in the village also joined in the movement. The young men and women. At the end of 1967, a song and dance festival was held for two consecutive nights. 54 items were produced, 13 of which had been composed by the co-op farmers themselves.

THE NORTH—GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

In the Popular Song and Dance Movement

The Songs of Hai Xuan

I arrived in Hai Xuan (Hai Xuan District, Nam Dinh province) just when the villagers were busy harvesting the winter crop. The wide tree-lined path in the village was full of songs and laughter of young men and women pushing cartloads of rice sheaves laden with grain. From the store house on the roadside came the sputter of a rice thresher and husker. The merry drum beats of the young Khmers seemed meant to tone up this slogan on a large placard standing at the roadside: "Let's emulate one another to bring in quickly the crop, to bring in the effort of the great front line."

As I strode on the road, heard from an electric loudspeaker a crystalline voice reciting a poem: "Hurrah for the Liberation fight, to you, the most beautiful man!"

A soprano singing the popular song "The furrows of a good contriver" followed up by the accompaniment of a flute. Then, many, many other songs and fancy who where the singers? They were Mrs. Lay, chairman of the village administrative committee, a one-time member of a musical group, a young woman with smiling eyes, little Nhai with the trained voice of a flute, an article, teacher Lay, four-year-old Van and the four-member song group of Old Phuc's family.

In Hai Xuan village, every-one sings and songs are heard everywhere. They sing in the fields, in the store house, while mounting guard against U.S. aircraft, during meetings, or while building gun fortifications or going to church... The busier they are the more they sing. There is also a small musical group to accompany their songs, consisting of some violins, clarinets and drums.

Nobody would believe that a few years back the mass singing movement was almost unknown in Hai Xuan. By the middle of 1965 the Party Committee decided to act in this field. A teacher of music was invited to the village. People came to learn music in numbers as an irrigation project-building bee. Even members of the church band who played wind-instruments only by ear now also attended classes to learn new songs of a musical theory. They told one another: "We who can play church music must play resistance songs better."

Three months later, after the music class closed, Hai Xuan's singing movement made giant's strides. Eight dignitaries of the eight churches in the village also joined in the movement. The young men and women. At the end of 1967, a song and dance festival was held for two consecutive nights. 54 items were produced, 13 of which had been composed by the co-op farmers themselves.

The song and dance group has played a big role in the political and production campaigns as well as in the organization of the village against U.S. aircraft under the leadership of the local Party Committee and administration. For instance, in early 1965 when some women were appointed heads of production teams, a number of men commented unfavourably. The group immediately composed a song praising "The Young Girl Team Leader" to remove doubts about women's capabilities. Barely a couple of weeks later the scientific and technical team in the co-op started a campaign against monoculture. The ensemble produced an opera on the cultural clubhouse of the village to give it a good start.

In 1967 Hai Xuan was awarded a Third Class Military Exploit Medal by the Government for its achievements in keeping public security and peace, commended by the district authorities for its good irrigation work, inspired by these successes, the co-op farmers composed new songs entitled "Worthy of the Medal" and "Of Native Village Builds Irrigation Works." Recently, when the U.S. aggressors had unconditionally stopped their bombardments on North Viet Nam, the group performed a song called "Mrs. Johnson pulls a long face" during a peace evening session. The lyrics of the song were some young men from production team No. 1.

In an interlude between two songs, Mrs. Bai said to me: "You see, we have a lot to do in harvest time. Look at those girls who are singing 'The five-ton song'. They are also good in production." Pointing to the girls who were singing while cutting rice stalks, she told me in detail the production records of each of them.

The visitor to Hai Xuan, after having an interview with Mrs. Bai, should ask her to sing. Her favourite and stock song — known to the whole district — is the "Song of Hope" by Van Ky, because it can stir up their innermost feelings. Before land reform, Cay had to hire herself to a landlord. Now she is Chairman of the village committee. She sings the praise of the new life of herself and of her family, and the great hope of her village.

At leisure in the afternoon, by Dao Mung (from the People's Army)

THERE was still half an hour to go till the change of shifts, yet many groups of workers at the Rubber Good Factory X. were ready to take over. As usual, when passing the entrance gate they looked up at the boards recording the production achievements of the various workshops in the factory. As always, all units had received "red flags". It is safe to say that the last days of the year here were all red-lettered days.

Red flags were pinned in straight rows on the evaluation board of Workshop 2: the kneading team, the sheeting team, the tube pressing team, the tube shaping team, the tubing teams. Workshop 2, began his conversation with me like this: "Never has our workshop topped its daily norm at so high a rate. To tell the truth, it is not always plain sailing here. But when difficulties crop up, nobody complains, instead they join hands in seeking ways and means to tide them over. At Workshop 3, while the work groups were repeatedly scoring new highs in production, the roller — the workhorse of the workshop — broke down. The new brought a real commotion not only at Workshop 3 but at others as well. If Workshop 3 which accounts for the bulk of the factory's production falls short of the plan, it was unlikely that the factory could fulfil its own either.

As for the repairs, it was something beyond the capacity of the workers of the factory. But the workers were resolved to do them themselves at any cost. A number of leading cadres and technical workers set to work for two or even three shifts in a row. In the end the complex machine was put back in order 12 hours ahead of schedule. During the break-down of the main machine, Workshop 4 took over the sheeting for Workshop 3. Socialist co-operation has become a rule at the factory. Especially after the drive of political discussions aimed at transforming President Ho Chi Minh's appeal into deeds, the participation of leading cadres in production and of workers in management is no longer a matter of "mutual assistance" or "learning from one another" but a permanent task of everybody in the common effort to fulfil the common programme. Looking out I saw a group of people pulling or pushing cartloads of materials from the factory and also the doctor and his assistant.

But not the concentration on the fulfilment of the plan was the only main aspect of the factory's life in the year end days. Another thing was also conspicuous: the emergence of the workers were bent on the fulfilment of the remaining 11.2% of the yearly plan, the factory was already alive with preparations for the new year's programme. And not the programme alone but ways to carry it out too, had been debated in the most democratic manner and conclusions reached. These sessions were conducted in written form and placarded in the meeting rooms.

It was the boldest ever plan since the factory was built. Compared with 1968

The 3,258th U.S. plane downed in North Viet Nam was a pilotless aircraft hit by our A-4 forces Northeast of Hanoi on Jan. 2, 1969

everybody in the common effort to fulfil the common programme. Looking out I saw a group of people pulling or pushing cartloads of materials from the factory and also the doctor and his assistant.

But not the concentration on the fulfilment of the plan was the only main aspect of the factory's life in the year end days. Another thing was also conspicuous: the emergence of the workers were bent on the fulfilment of the remaining 11.2% of the yearly plan, the factory was already alive with preparations for the new year's programme. And not the programme alone but ways to carry it out too, had been debated in the most democratic manner and conclusions reached. These sessions were conducted in written form and placarded in the meeting rooms.

Striving for fulfilment of 1968 State Plan

YEAR-END DAYS AT RUBBER WARE FACTORY X.

cuous: the whole factory was gearing up for a new year of production. All Party cells were holding meetings to prepare for the forthcoming Party congress of the factory. Some cadres were busy classifying and assessing the more than 1,000 labour saving suggestions contributed by the workers. Discussion to better management. These new ideas would be put on the agenda of the congress of workers and personnel of factory. All workshops, sections and departments were busy putting up year-end exhibitions of innovations. The contented these as well as the discussions at workers' meetings centered on the implementation of the 1969 plan. In fact, not until now did the workers discuss the 1969 plan. When the factory embarked on its fourth quarterly programme,

gross output will increase by 47%, such items as car tyres and tubes by 12.4%, bicycles and tubes by 100%, conveyor belts by 220%, accessories by 500%. Problems regarding labour management, improvement of living conditions, civilian defence were also carefully considered. Concentrating dispersion to avoid enemy air raids, the workers were unanimous in stressing the necessity to continue it and push it up. Resolutions were also passed to repair and build more air-raid shelters and housing. At present, a number of workshops in the factory have started the 1969 production plan with all their youthful ardour and energy.

December 1968.
U.C.

Giai Phong Press Agency Announces:

On the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the founding of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, Giai Phong Press Agency (GPA) has decided to release daily as from January 1st, 1969 one English language news bulletin by Radio (teletype Transmission (RTT) from 22 to 24 hrs Indo-China time, or from 15 to 17 hrs GMT, on two frequencies:

GPA 2: 824 kc, and

GPA 3: 804 kc.

With the following characteristics:

— Speed: 30 baud,

— Shift keying: 500.

We will greatly appreciate any remark by our monitors on technical reception conditions as well as on the content and other aspects of our newscasts.

VO NHON LY

Giai Phong Press Agency (GPA)



Tam Soc (Soc Trang province) people rising up to break the enemy oppressive apparatus and build up revolutionary power



THE TRAITORS PILLORED

LAST Sunday Nguyen Cao Ky slipped off the quiet to Orly airport for a trip back to Saigon. Neither the chief of the American delegation, Harriman, nor even the chief of the so-called "delegation of the Republic of Viet Nam", Pham Dang Lam, bothered to see him off. In Paris Ky and his men are quartered in one place, Lam and his in another.

Wrapped in an overcoat, Ky sat hunched in a corner of the waiting-room, staring in silence at the floor, his face drawn and pale. A newspaperman asked him the reason of his departure. Ky winked at his wife, but his mouth and stammered, "It's too cold here in Paris".

In fact, the last few days in Paris had been unusually warm. But Paris had turned cold to Ky. Worse still, it had shown him out-right scorn, making it unmistakably clear to him that he was looked upon as a gangster, a puppet and a fire-eater. French journalists in *Le Tribune* and *Nations*, "It makes me sick in the stomach looking at Ky's photographs in the papers."

The two weeks Ky spent in Paris were devoted to flesh pots and sabotage of the talks on Viet Nam. With him was a retinue of twelve "assistants", and twenty-seven "chauffeurs, house servants and bodyguards." The Saigon *Daily News* disclosed that Ky had brought with him to Paris a swarm of "pals, cooks, call-girls, chauffeurs, gamblers," the cost of the whole operation to be paid with "taxes on the people, of which so far only eleven per cent have been collected." Ky also ordered the Boeing 747 which had flown him to Paris to stand by, for pleasure trips to Italy and Switzerland. But the money was such in Saigon that after a week he had to swallow his pride and send it back.

Last Wednesday, while Ky was feasting at the Bristol hotel, U.S. Senator MacGover gave him a rap on the knuckles, the kind one metes out to an inefficient house-servant. "It is obvious that General Ky and our other so-called allies in South Viet Nam are trying to stall the negotiations in Paris. While Ky is playing around in the plush spots of Paris, American men are dying to prop his corrupt regime back home. Haven't we had enough of this little tinhorn dictator who

wastes American tax funds in Paris and American blood in Viet Nam... Now he is playing Uncle Sam for a sucker at the expense of American lives and 30,000 million dollars annually in American money." An American correspondent once told me, "If Ky is told to read something which has been written for him, it may be all right. But if he improvises, it's all tommyrot." The lackey Ky is indeed an ill-tamed one. He would now taunt Harriman with his bad hearing, now upbraid Clifford for saying the "wrong" things. In an interview with a *Junior* correspondent, he boasted that relationship between "Lot and himself was that of father to son."

In assigning such a low-minded racial to "leadership and supervision" of the Saigon delegation at the Paris talks, Washington and Saigon have revealed their intent to hamper and sabotage the conference. From his headquarters in Maitland street, Ky kept pouring forth a steady stream of disruptive innuendoes. He had his agents keep visiting the American delegation and hatching schemes to cause discussions about procedures for the four-party conference to drag on endlessly. Although a rival of Thieu, he still had to follow his superior's tactics. In Paris, to procrastinate, and disrupt the conference from within." He knew that his opposition to peace was blamed by Paris public opinion and had to give up his scheduled publicity programme. A "presentation" banquet planned for the very day of his arrival was cancelled. So was a widely-advertized meeting between himself and a number of Vietnamese residents. No press conference was held. He had brought along with him a 200-odd-strong staff for the publication of a Vietnamese language journal meant for Vietnamese nationals in France, but the paper, dubbed "News from the Native Land", breathed its last after a single issue. He sent henchmen to Vietnamese states to circulate slanderous rumours about the Paris talks. And when the DRVN delegation put forward the highly reasonable proposal that a round table be used for the four-party conference, he and his clique reacted hysterically, demanding that the table be cut into halves. The shape of the table and all procedural questions were but pretexts

for him to hold up the talks.

The Thieu-Ky clique are engaging in waiting, for the coming into office of their new master. They are afraid that the *four* may be ended. They understand very clearly that they will not survive the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Viet Nam. They frantically oppose peace, just as they have been waging a savage war against the people. They threw themselves about to oppose all talks that might lead to peace.

Boarding the little car taking him to the plane which would carry him back to the Saigon stable, he said, stressing every word in his snappish way, "In Paris I have met with language difficulties. I could not understand the voice of our people, expressing their love of peace in independence and freedom, is drowning their hysterical clamour for war. Our people are resolved to knock the Thieu-Ky-Huong gang down and struggle for an end to the American war of aggression. Only by replacing them could a more favourable atmosphere be created for the progress of the Paris conference. The Front's call for the cessation of U.S. aggression, the withdrawal of American and satellite troops, the removal of the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration, the setting up of a peace Cabinet, has had deep repercussion in Paris and Western opinion."

For over a week now, this appeal has been winning over large numbers of people. The Western press has granted lively comments. At the ceremony welcoming Mr Tran Bau Kiem's arrival in Paris, in press conferences, film projections, and receptions held by the NFL's delegates, as well as at the solemn ceremony on December 20 in Paris, the clear-sighted line and policy of the NFL have been warmly hailed. On the road to peace, one of the most urgent tasks to be done is the pulling down of the American stable in Saigon.

Paris, December 1968
HONG HA

U.S. - PUPPET NEW CRIMES AGAINST SOUTH VIET NAM CIVILIANS

IN implementing their "accelerated pacification" plan, the U.S. and its puppet have of late piled up new crimes against the South Viet Nam civilians.

More than 7,000 U.S. puppet and Pak Jung Hi troops were deployed from Nov. 20 to Dec. 6 in a terrorist operation against 7,000 people in Dien Ban district, Quang Nam province. During this bloody raid on such a small locality, over 470 people were killed.

The raiders also tortured more than 100 people, and forced more than 2,500 families out of their native places.

In Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, U.S. and puppet troops in Nov. mounted more than 500 operations big and small against the local people.

From Nov. 21 to 23, the U.S. 3rd Marine Division carried out a large-scale action in Quang Tri province and murdered tens of thousands of people and took away more than 200 others.

In the raid in Phong Dien district, Thua Thien province, in October and November, U.S. and Pak Jung Hi troops wiped out 57 out of 76 hamlets in this district.

During their attacks against the people in Quang Nam province in November, U.S. and Pak Jung Hi mercenaries troops thoroughly put in practice their: "kill all, destroy all and loot all" motto. In Binh Hoa village, they massacred 100 people. In Binh Duong village, they killed 41 people and wounded 77 others, burned down 781 dwelling houses, and went

away with a large number of cattle and other property of the local people. More savagely, the enemy buried alive 35 old people and children. In Thanh Quy village, they killed all the 8 members of a family including 5 children and a pregnant woman.

In My Tho province, 2 U.S. companies supported by airplanes on Nov. 30 laid waste the Cai Lay township killing 70 people.

Also in Nov. U.S. and puppet troops raided many areas in Tay Ninh province, putting to death thousands of people and forcing more than 10,000 people to leave their villages.

Besides, the U.S. aggressors have stepped up air bombing against South Viet Nam villages. In the three days ending Dec. - 14, B-52s dropped 4,000 tons of bombs on Saigon surroundings alone.

Recently, the aggressors have added to their armory in Viet Nam 10,000 pound bombs said by UPI of Dec. 10 to be the greatest ever of the conventional type.

Furthermore, the U.S. continues to use toxic chemicals in South Viet Nam. According to still incomplete statistics more than 30 South Viet Nam provinces have been the targets of U.S. noxious chemical spraying in 1968. Tens of thousands of people were affected, thousands of others killed, including old people, women and children. Tens of thousands of hectares of crops were devastated, forests from large areas of forests heavily damaged.

U.S. - PUPPETS IGNORE NEW YEAR TRUCE

THE U.S.-puppet command refused to observe the three-day ceasefire ordered by the DRVN command on the occasion of New Year. Out of respect for the customs and habits of the people using the Gregorian Calendar (including the American people) and in conformity with the humanitarian policy of the NFL.

In this connection, the PLAF Command issued on Dec. 31 last a statement condemning this odious attitude of the U.S.-puppets who

have thus once again shown their bellicose attitude and criminal obstinacy in prolonging their war of aggression against our country.

Nevertheless, the PLAF Command decided to give every facilitating to those enemy units desirous of celebrating the New Year in observance of the ceasefire that the warlords in Saigon ignored. On the other hand, a statement pointed out those who would indulge in acts of terror and plunder against the people would be severely punished.

UNDER the iron heel of the French colonialists in the past and the U.S. neo-colonialists today, the South Viet Nam townsfolk have always shown an unbending spirit and an extraordinary stamina.

Since the emergence of the NFL, the movement of the urban population in South Viet Nam has been constantly gaining in strength and scope, assuming more and more varied forms and turning into a high tide at a higher tempo. Following are the main marks in this process of glorious struggle:

— December 1960: Since then was installed in the "presidency of the Republic of Viet Nam" in 1956, Ngo Dinh Diem revealed more and more his anti-national nature and could only maintain his family rule by the use of more and more brutal law to-50, the roving "Gulionne Communist" campaign, the poisoning of 6,000 people at the Phu Loi concentration camp.

On Dec. 20, 1960, the NFL came into being with a sharp composition of many figures very familiar to the South Viet Nam urban population and representing their aspirations and will of struggle. It is headed by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, the leader of the 500,000-strong March 19, 1950 protest march in Saigon against the call of two aggressor camps.

The NFL Political Program is the chassis charting the path for the urban population in South Viet Nam to fight and triumph over the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen in the defence of their country and their homes.

Ever since, the movement of the urban population has entered a new stage, that of promoting the political struggle, steadily developing the armed struggle, and paving the way for a high tide of the character. The drive for vital interests and democratic liberties aimed at defending the people's lives and property and the freedoms of belief and the press in the urban centres, now took the form of violent outburst now simmered deep in the people's heart, but always bore a clear revolutionary character. Beside slogans of the legal struggle such as demands for life, shorter work day, Lunar New Year Festival bonus, protest against arbitrary layoffs, against wage cuts, for better housing removal, and beating of workers, or the defence of the dignity of Vietnamese women... there have also been illegal slogans serving as guiding lines for the movement such as: guard against the enemy's placating and divisive plots, lay bare fully the black-leg, trade unions, henchmen of the colonialists, advance towards the overthrow of the traitorous puppet regime and win back power to the people, realise genuine independence and genuine democracy, etc..

— In February 1962: Giai Phong Radio was put into operation, daily bringing the voice of justice to co-workers in the towns and cities, exhorting them to actions and directing the struggle in the towns.

— 1963: outbreak of the Buddhists' struggle under the watchword of a movement for the freedom of belief and religious equality. In fact, this was an occasion for broad masses of the people to stand up against the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen. This movement led to the military putsch that overthrew the Diem regime in 1963.

— August 1964: outbreak of the students' movement which culminated on August 25, 1964 when 20,000 young men and women of Saigon took to the streets, erected a statue of the patriotic girl student Quach Thi Hrang murdered by the U.S.-Diem regime, they ousted Director Nguyen Khanh who was about to proclaim himself head of State.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NFL

UNCEASING AND VIGOROUS GROWTH OF SOUTH VIET NAM URBAN POPULATION'S STRUGGLE

for the freedom of belief and religious equality. In fact, this was an occasion for broad masses of the people to stand up against the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen. This movement led to the military putsch that overthrew the Diem regime in 1963.

— August 1964: outbreak of the students' movement which culminated on August 25, 1964 when 20,000 young men and women of Saigon took to the streets, erected a statue of the patriotic girl student Quach Thi Hrang murdered by the U.S.-Diem regime, they ousted Director Nguyen Khanh who was about to proclaim himself head of State.

— Sept. 19, 1964: workers at many key services in Saigon such as electricity, water supply, post, transport, air force, etc., began a general strike against the U.S.-Nguyen Khanh regime, violently paralysing Saigon city.

— 1965: 200,000 U.S. aggressive troops were introduced en masse into South Viet Nam. For the first time, the history of foreign, intellectual and national bourgeois not only gave their support to the struggle with the Viet Nam working people but also founded their own political organizations to "ally" their forces against the U.S. and puppets. This was originally known as the National Self-Determination "which later became the Saigon Movement for Peace and Neutrality. Unlike the drives of the preceding periods which were only of a local character, these were aimed at limited, concrete objectives, the above said movement had a far-reaching significance in this plain, indisputable truth: "Nobody, whoever he may be, can live under the U.S. puppet yoke. To survive, it is necessary to overthrow it, and to this end one needs strength, and to have strength, one must unite". But a question arose: "How to unite? and on what platform? Who is qualified to call for unity?" It was exactly at this juncture that every citizen in the cities who still retained his self-respect and who was concerned about his family and his nation turned his thought to the NFL, the banner for rallying and leading the South Vietnamese people to resist U.S. aggression for national salvation.

— 1967: the U.S. again sustained a heavy defeat in its second dry-season strategic counter-offensive during the large-scale military code-named Junction City. In Summer-Autumn 1967 the liberation forces made repeated assaults on 40 towns, cities and bases of the enemy. The puppet administration broke down by big fragments in the country and became a tattered in the towns. In such

workers and peasants to the national bourgeoisie and patriotic personalities had risen up against American domination in very diverse forms. All social bases on which the U.S. and puppet had been relying were crumbling under their feet, which alarmingly aggravated their isolation.

— 1968: the U.S. expeditionary army sustained stunning defeats in its first dry season strategic counter-offensive at the hands of the liberation forces in Van Tuong, Dau Bang, Dat Cuu, and other areas. U.S. strength was seriously challenged while the prestige of the NFL grew visibly. A new step forward was achieved in the movement of the urban population.

— May 1968: a movement to break away from the central puppet administration broke out in Hue and Da Nang. It was initiated by Buddhists in circles to protest the repression of Buddhists by the Thieu Ky clique. It elicited response from the intellectuals and students and support of the First Division of the puppet army. In co-operation with the Buddhists in Hue and Da Nang, those in Saigon waged an anti-revolution struggle with the Viet Nam Buddhist (Buddhist Institute) as the centre to rally Buddhists. But the Buddhists' movement both in Hue and Da Nang and Saigon was brutally stamped out by U.S. and its puppets. Hundreds of Buddhists were massacred, thousands of others thrown in jail or deported. The movement was provisionally thrust back but the people's thirst for revenge still simmered in the depths of the hearts of the six million inhabitants of South Viet Nam cities. More and more clearly they realized the deep significance of this plain, indisputable truth: "Nobody, whoever he may be, can live under the U.S. puppet yoke. To survive, it is necessary to overthrow it, and to this end one needs strength, and to have strength, one must unite". But a question arose: "How to unite? and on what platform? Who is qualified to call for unity?" It was exactly at this juncture that every citizen in the cities who still retained his self-respect and who was concerned about his family and his nation turned his thought to the NFL, the banner for rallying and leading the South Vietnamese people to resist U.S. aggression for national salvation.

— 1967: the U.S. again sustained a heavy defeat in its second dry-season strategic counter-offensive during the large-scale military code-named Junction City. In Summer-Autumn 1967 the liberation forces made repeated assaults on 40 towns, cities and bases of the enemy. The puppet administration broke down by big fragments in the country and became a tattered in the towns. In such

favourable circumstances, the Political Programme passed by the Second Congress of the NFL was announced and implemented. The revolutionary movement in the towns into a higher stage. Many "liberated enclaves" placed under the self-management of the people. The puppet administration in the cities still under U.S.-puppet occupation. In these "liberated enclaves" which were peopled by tens of thousands, spies and other agents of the enemy were quickly wiped out and the life of the population was reorganised in a wholesome atmosphere of industry and mutual assistance. To carry out a day-time roundup of the men in these districts for the army, the puppets had to conduct battalion-sized operations. The guerrilla movement in the towns began to expand. The South Viet Nam cities entered a pre-revolution period, with a clear objective already set in the NFL Political Programme: Drive out the U.S. aggressors, overthrow the puppet administration, set up an independent, peaceful, neutral, democratic and prosperous South Viet Nam.

— Spring 1967-1968: the generalized offensives and uprisings of the South Viet liberation forces and people broke out at one sweep and in all places like

an avalanche. 44 cities and provincial more than 100 district towns and military sub-sectors, hundreds of airfields, towns and storages of the US puppets were attacked. Their rear base system was threatened. The puppet administration in both country and town (in sample with the guerrilla) torn to pieces and the upper echelons ceasing to be an effective instrument for the realization of US neo-colonialism. Both the position and force of the U.S. puppets declined drastically within a short time. In these favourable conditions many new anti-fascist guerrilla forces of thousands of youths joined the Liberation Army or city guerrilla units. The millions of people who had been driven by U.S. bombs and shells to the fringes of the cities and even the townspeople stood up to shoulder their historic mission, putting their might and main at the service of the fight, building their political and military forces, carrying out propaganda among the enemy troops and personnel and revolutionary revolutionary power at the basic level. The intellectuals, personalities and national bourgeois in their ranks in the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces with the liberation forces, for national independence, for

(Continued page 8)

Saigon

- Labour unrest
- Student and pupil representatives condemn puppet administration

THE Saigon-based correspondent of *Giai Phong* Agency reported that following the strike of workers of many enterprises including the Binh Tay Distillery and the MITAC cigarette factory, workers in Saigon were demanding their right to better living conditions and democratic rights, for the removal of the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration and for the formation of a peace cabinet.

On the morning of Dec. 23, bus workers operating on the Phu Tho-Hoa-Saigon route lodged a protest against the traffic ban imposed by the Saigon puppet regime, which threw many workers out of job at Saigon when the price of rice was skyrocketing.

2,000 workers and employees of Air Viet Nam on Dec. 24 called a meeting at which they demanded that the Board of Directors pay the year-end bonus and make up for the high costs of

living, resulting from the rise in the price of rice.

On Dec. 17, 300 representatives of small traders also held a convention to prepare for an action for a reduction of licence taxes.

On Dec. 22, more than 300 people staged a sit-in at the Duc Market. The speakers called for the replacement of the Thieu-Ky-Huong regime, and cancellation of the decision to raise the price of rice. The call for the approval and support of many puppet army officers and men and police.

On the morning of Dec. 26, Tran Van Chi, representing the Saigon students and pupils' league, met the press at Saigon Pedagogical College. He declared that the demonstration held on the night of Dec. 24 to demand an end to the war was fully legitimate and that Saigon students rejected the puppet administration.

"ANY AGGRESSOR WHO PERSISTS IN HIS ATTEMPT AGAINST OUR COUNTRY WILL NECESSARILY COURT SHAMEFUL DEFEAT"

by General VO NGUYEN GIAP

Excerpts from a speech delivered at a grand meeting held in Hanoi to mark the anniversaries of the founding of the Viet Nam People's Army (Dec. 22, 1944) and the First National Resistance (Dec. 19 1946)

THE Vietnamese people are waging the greatest war of resistance in their nation's history and are writing new, extremely glorious pages of history. We are defeating the U.S. imperialists in their biggest local war of aggression since World War Two, which is also their biggest neo-colonialist war of aggression against the National Liberation Movement which is rising irresistibly like a tidal wave. We have defeated the U.S. imperialists' war of destruction against North Viet Nam, an important strategy in their scheme to intensify their war of aggression against our country. Blinded by their aggressive nature, the U.S. imperialists have recklessly attacked an inflexible and heroic people with a centuries-old distinguished record in the building and defence of their country.

As a result of their foolish calculation the U.S. aggressors have bumped their heads against the indomitable strength of our 31 million compatriots from the South to the North united to fight a great people's war, and have invited upon themselves ignominious setbacks.

IN the great front of the country, directly confronting the U.S. aggressors the heroic South Vietnamese people and armed forces, under the banner of the South Viet Nam NLF, have braved all hardships and sacrifices and fought valiantly and persistently against the foreign aggressors. Though the U.S. imperialists have taken their local war to a high level, raised the strength of the U.S. puppet and satellite armies to 1,200,000 men, our people and liberation Armed Forces, maintaining and developing their offensive, have fought off one after another all the counter-offensives of the enemy. Especially since early Spring this year, our Southern fellow countrymen and fighters, fired by a vigorous motto of offensive and a burning revolutionary spirit, have been mounting waves of general offensives and widespread uprisings and have re-

corded unprecedentedly big and allround victories. Within a short period of time the revolution in the South has made a leaping bound, ushering in a new situation to our great advantage and to the great disadvantage of the enemy. Our strength, military and political, has been increasing on the rise while the U.S. puppet has been critically on the downgrade, in terms of manpower as well as war means. We have vigorously developed our assaults and encirclements against the enemy. On the other hand, the enemy battle army has been upset, and they have been driven ever deeper into the defensive, and into a strategic position where they are exposed to attack and encirclement on all battlefields. Our zeal and determination have been increasing while U.S. aggressive will has been substantially shaken.

After four years of local war with more than half a million U.S. troops as the hard core, the U.S. imperialists have had to contemplate "de-Americanizing" the war. Thus, they have admitted the erroneousness and failure of their decision to bring U.S. troops into South Viet Nam to save the puppet army and administration from collapse.

It is a vicious circle, an impasse for the U.S. imperialists. They have been forced back on to the path of failure which they had trodden and which had led them to downfall and their "special war" strategy to complete bankruptcy.

We are confident that the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam, impelled forward by the considerable successes already recorded, will certainly continue to march forward and defeat completely every new scheme and manoeuvre of the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, and score still bigger victories in their advance to final victory.

IN the North, under the clearheaded leadership of our Party, our armed forces and people have won a tremendous victory over the U.S. ag-

gressors, in foiling their war of destruction, all their foolish ambitions and all their strategic objectives.

The U.S. aggressors have tried to shake our people's fighting will through the massive use of bombs and shells. However, our people's resolve to defeat them is now higher and firmer than ever before. They have striven to sever the blood-tied bonds between North and South Viet Nam by means of destruction and massacre, but our 31 million countrymen are now united more closely and are carrying on the fight shoulder to shoulder.

Attacking North Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists hoped to weaken our economic and national defence potentials. But in the crucible of war, our national defence has been remarkably strengthening and our socialist economy has fully demonstrated its superiority and has ceaselessly been growing in war time. Communications and transport have been kept open in all circumstances; our people's life has been stabilized, culture, education and public health have been developing.

After four years of extremely valiant fighting against the enemy's war of destruction, socialist North Viet Nam today has become stronger than ever before in all fields and has never ceased to be the solid revolutionary base of the whole country.

The army and people of North Viet Nam have shot down more than 3,200 most up-to-date aircraft of the U.S., killing and capturing a sizeable number of American "aces", and sunk or set afire hundreds of enemy vessels. The so-called superiority of the U.S. imperialism, the champion of imperialism which constantly boasts of its wealth and weapons and is notorious for its cruelty against the oppressed and lowly masses of the Vietnamese people, they have shot up unconditionally the bombardment in the DRVN.

Not only have they been forced to admit openly the injudiciousness and bankruptcy of their bombing policy against North Viet Nam, but also in the process of their ill-fated aggression against our country. This constitutes a very significant victory on our part and a bitter defeat for the U.S. imperialists.

This almost unbelievable thing for many if person has now become an evident reality of our line. Our people and army can be proud of the fact that under the skillful leadership of our Party headed by esteemed President Ho Chi Minh, indomitable socialist North Viet Nam has proved to be a steel rampart, our heroic Viet Nam a fortress. Any aggressor who shuts his eyes to this harsh fact and who, under illusions, persists in his attempt against our country, will inevitably court shameful defeat.

OUR successes and U.S. setbacks on the Viet Nam battlefield prove that in our era, a people, even with a not very vast territory and not very large population but courageously standing up in the struggle for their independence and freedom, armed with correct line, fired by a great determination to fight and at the same time knowing how to fight, will defeat any aggressor, be it U.S. imperialism.

The flaccid of the U.S. is an extremely heavy one in all fields, military, political, strategic and tactical, a flaccid of neo-colonialism in all its forms, a flaccid of the "local war" which has reached a high level, and a common flaccid of the imperialist monopolies which have replaced each other at the helm of the United States. It is the biggest flaccid of the U.S. imperialists in the whole history of their aggressive wars.

U.S. failure has given rise to enormous political, military, economic, financial and social difficulties in the U.S.A. and has had a grave impact on the global strategy of U.S. imperialism.

The victory of our people is a very

big and allround one, a victory of the very sound and imaginative revolutionary line, a victory of justice, a victory of a heroic people resisting a brutal and unjust war imposed on them by the chiefs of the imperialist camp, a victory of the bloodless solidarity between North and South Viet Nam, a victory of the strategy and tactics of a people's war developed to a high level versus the neo-colonialist schemes and manoeuvres and the obsolete military outlook of the bourgeoisie. It is also one of the brotherly Indo-Chinese people, carrying on the fight shoulder to shoulder, of the revolutionary peoples throughout the world. It is greatly inspiring our brothers and friends in the five continents, frightening the enemy and strengthening the confidence of the armed forces and people throughout our country and their determination to fight till final victory (...)

On this occasion, we sincerely thank the fraternal socialist countries for their very valuable and great support and assistance; we sincerely thank the peoples of Laos and Cambodia, the progressive people all over the world, and the United States, for their sympathy with, and vigorous support for, the Vietnamese people's sacred war of resistance against the U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

OUR people's great successes in their sacred struggle for independence and freedom can be ascribed to the enlightening leadership of our Party and the proletarian-military history of the Vietnamese Nation.

The history of our nation is one of resistance against foreign aggression and the consistent struggle for independence and freedom. The danger of annihilation has always stirred up in us very profound and unbreakable determination to win and to safeguard national independence and unity.

For independence and freedom, our forefathers have fearlessly risen up, those in the rear taking the place of those in the front who have fallen, the whole country united as one man, and have defeated many armies of aggression many times larger than theirs.

Today, under the leadership of the Party, and also for independence and freedom, our 31-million strong people have closed their ranks and risen up in two wars of resistance, fighting with all their moral and physical strength, at the risk of losing their lives and property, in the spirit of rather sacrificing everything than giving the rule of the country and slavery, determined to frustrate all aggressive designs of imperialism to save their country and their homes.

OUR strength is the strength of a heroic nation, the strength of the traditional determination to fight to win independence and freedom, thousands of years of history, the strength of today and also of tomorrow.

The great victory of our people also stems from the fully correct and very creative revolutionary military line of our Party. This line is imaginatively applied to Vietnamese reality. It reflects the spirit of the thoroughgoing revolution of the working class of our country, the traditions of struggle of our nation against foreign aggression, the courage and intelligence of the passionately patriotic Vietnamese man. At the same time, it is the expression of the final revolutionary virtue of progressive mankind.

Under our Party's leadership, the

UPHOLDING the heroic tradition and the powerful national feeling of the Vietnamese people, our Party has enhanced their genuine patriotism and nationalism with Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, raised it to the highest degree and turned it into Vietnamese revolutionary heroism, the great source of strength of the present fight for national and class liberation.

It is on this political and ideological basis that our people have developed a Vietnamese military science and art, and worked out the directive to fight the enemy and the guideline for leading the fight, promoted the collective ingenuity of the revolutionary masses, translated into reality the watchword "the entire people fight against the aggressors". All the 31 million of our people are 31 million valiant fighters, using a small force to fight a bigger one, defeating a big force with a smaller one, combining big, medium-sized and small battles, attacking and retreating, attacking and stepping up big-unit fighting and at the same striking the enemy from a strong position and achieving very high combat efficiency, become ever stronger and win ever bigger victories as they fight.

Since the U.S. imperialists started their war of destruction against the North, our Party has made a skilful use of the people's war as an antidote to a very new kind of war of aggression. It has mobilized the entire people in the effort, with the armed forces, the masses, the guerrillas, the enemy in all fields, coupling the fight against the enemy with constantly strengthening civil defence, the consistent struggle with socialist construction, the fighting with production; maintaining communications and transport, public order and security, fostering and developing our forces, resolutely defending the socialist North, fulfilling our duty towards the big front. This line of ours has been highly successful.

OUR Party has organized the Vietnamese people composed of the regular army, the regional armed forces and the militia and guerrilla. They make up a wonderful army which, within only a score of years, has grown from small guerrilla bands into a powerful army and has, together with the entire people, defeated Japanese fascism and French imperialism and is today getting the better of U.S. imperialism.

What a glory and pride for the Vietnamese people's armed forces to be the sons of the working people of Viet Nam, of the heroic Vietnamese people!

What a glory and pride for our entire people and army to fight under the ever-victorious banner of the glorious Viet Nam Workers' Party and esteemed President Ho Chi Minh!

Born of the people, led by the Party of the working class, carrying in them the blood of a heroic people and built along the Marxist-Leninist line, the Vietnamese people's armed forces pledge themselves to fulfil with distinction the glorious task assigned by history and the people, which is to wipe with the entire people, the U.S. imperialist aggression, liberate the South, defend the North and achieve the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country.

WITH the brilliant successes recorded in both zones of the country since early this Spring, the war of resistance of our entire people against the U.S. aggression, for national salvation, has entered a new stage. U.S. failure is apparent and its setbacks will no doubt grow ever heavier. Our people have won big successes and are advancing toward complete victory. However, U.S. imperialists remain very stubborn and have not yet given up their aggressive design against our country.

Though having lost all hope of a military victory they still cling to the wild dream of maintaining their neo-colonialist rule in South Viet Nam. Like a mortally wounded beast, the U.S. aggressors are striking with desperate fury. They have stopped at no barbarous methods, have been frantically using B-57 bombers, bombs, shells and noxious chemicals to ravage towns and countryside, and have launched the so-called "accelerated pacification" programme, stepped up repression and terror against all these in the areas under their control who yearn for national independence and peace.

With regard to North Viet Nam, they obstinately carry on their spying and provocative activities, committing more crimes, encroaching upon the sovereignty and threatening the security of the DRVN.

The military and political schemes and moves of the U.S. imperialists are clear indications of their present intention to keep up pressure on the battlefield, to achieve a settlement to the war favourable to them. On the other hand, because with contradictions they spill out the weakening and losing position of the aggressor and wear their confusion and uncertainty, they cannot conceal their blind ally. That the U.S. and its henchmen prolong the war only to bring their backs upon themselves is left in no doubt.

AS the shock force of the entire people in the war of resistance to the U.S. aggression and for national salvation, our people's armed forces undertake to discharge thoroughly their

glorious responsibility, to continually increase the vigour and their combat capacity, and to resolutely cooperate with the rest of the people and inflict complete defeat on the U.S. aggressors and achieve final victory.

With all the moral and material strength of a nation on the road to victory, our people and armed forces throughout the country give the U.S. imperialists the following warning: This beautiful land of Viet Nam which is the millenary legacy of our people will provide no cover whatsoever to the Yankee aggressor. In recklessly sending troops to invade Viet Nam, the U.S. has met with utter failures. Now if it persists in its recklessness and obstinacy, it will certainly not escape yet heavier defeats.

So long as South Viet Nam is not liberated and our country is not reunited in real independence and freedom, our people and armed forces will pursue their efforts in the line of this steel-like will: "So long as a single aggressor remains in our country, we must carry on the fight and win it out".

No matter how stubborn and perfidious the U.S. aggressors may be and whatever manoeuvre and trick they may resort to, they cannot alter this law of history: the U.S. imperialists will certainly be defeated, the Vietnamese people will surely win.

Our generation is having the privilege to wage the greatest patriotic war in the history of our nation's resistance to foreign invasion. Our nation is having the honour to stand at the forefront of the revolutionary struggle of the world's peoples against U.S. imperialism, and many number one of the progressive mankind.

Our path to complete victory is still full of many hardships and many sacrifices. For the independence and freedom of our Fatherland, to fulfil the noble internationalist duty, our people are resolved to strengthen their unity and their determination to fight and to win, they are resolved to fight and break the aggressive will of the U.S. imperialists, and secure complete victory.

A Vinh Unit
artillery unit

This PLAF fighter
was only yesterday
an ordinary South
Vietnamese town
girl.

"THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ARE RESOLVED TO FULFIL THE GLORIOUS MISSION ENTRUSTED THEM BY THE NATION"

New Year Greetings from NFL leader to President Ho Chi Minh

PRESIDENT Ho Chi Minh has received a New Year's Message from Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the President of the NFL Central Committee, wishing him the best of health and a long life.

The message drew a balance-sheet of the victories won by the people in both zones of the country in the fight against the U.S. aggressors.

"On behalf of the 14 million South Vietnamese," it continued, "we warmly acclaim the splendid successes of the North Vietnamese armed forces and people. We wish to express our gratitude to you and to our 17 million kith and kin in the North. The South Vietnamese armed forces and people are deeply conscious that every victory of the North is a strong encouragement for them, and every victory they win here is organically associated with the happy and devoted assistance to their North Vietnamese compatriots and with the great solidarity and encouragement on your part."

The message pointed out: "The U.S. imperialists have failed in the North. They have suffered enormous setbacks in the South, but belittles and perverts the picture, they have not yet given up their aggressive design and dark colonialist schemes. Though having to stop unconditionally its bombardments on the whole territory of the North, the U.S. continues encroaching upon the sovereignty and threatening the security of the DRVN."

In the South, they are using more and more barbarous war methods, conducting terror raids, massacring our people, and destroying villages and towns. But their schemes are sure to fail completely, because they may be sure to fail completely.

"No matter what sacrifices and hardships and how fierce the war, the South Vietnamese people are resolved to fight till there is not a single U.S. aggressor left in our country. In order to liberate the South, the South Vietnamese people are determined to sacrifice the country, thus fulfilling the glorious mission entrusted them by the nation, which is at the same time one of their internationalist duties," the message concluded.

LAWYER Nguyen Huu Tho has also sent a New Year's message to Ton Duc Thang, President of the President of the Fatherland Front Central Committee.

UNCEASING AND VIGOROUS GROWTH OF SOUTH VIET NAM URBAN...

(Continued from page 5)

This was the toll signalling the last days of U.S. neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. In fact, the personalities in the leadership of the Alliance—such as Lawyer Tran Dinh Thuan and Proprietor Lam Van Tet—are all prominent figures in the South Viet Nam member of an elite whom the U.S. had tried in vain, with huge amounts of dollars and considerable patience, to buy off and turn into pliant tools in their hands. All of them have plenty of money. Many are

owners of factories, others are big land-owners or rentiers, and all have spent the whole of their life in the lap of luxury in the South. They may well see doing cash victory be secured. Their attitude bears a major symbolic significance.

SINCE the beginning of the New Year, the South Vietnamese people have been striving for peace restoration, the dismantling of the Thieu's regime, and the ending of the U.S. bombing clique and talks with the PNL have been gaining new momentum in

and their own families. They have disposed of U.S. military representations and joined hands with the "Vietcong" Front. But they have known that only by so doing can victory be secured. Their attitude bears a major symbolic significance.

To continue and increase the war effort, they are at the end of the tether, and to check the movement of the South Viet Nam towards independence, freedom and national, democratic and vital rights, the U.S. puppet regime has resorted to drastic measures such as promulgation of law 10-59, the U.S. puppet regime has been gagging of the press and

The U.S. puppets, seized with panic, continue trumpeting about their refusal to recognize the Front. But they have known that only by so doing can victory be secured. Their attitude bears a major symbolic significance.

lock and launched an assault to break through the encirclement by a U.S. battalion, bringing his section back to base safely after wiping out 40 GIs. In the Vinh Dien battle at the end of 1969, Son and his unit turned the tables on the enemy, and succeeded in destroying an enemy artillery position with sophisticated tactics by hitting at his heel of Achilles. In the Con Dai battle (Feb. 1968) Son's company faced a counter-attack by U.S. troops. Holding the favourable terrain inside the enemy line it counter-attacked with the use of friendly units from without. It managed to inflict hundreds of casualties on the U.S. leathernecks. After that, he went back to attack the survivors and talked the puppet army into guiding him in a hunt for the U.S. platoon in a secret trench, and the puppet soldier himself killed 5 GIs.

In many other battles, Phan Hanh Son and his men used the same bold, skillful and daring tactics. In a deep thrust into the enemy hideouts and striking horror into his heart.

At this moment, Son is joining the rest of the Liberation fighters in their rush forward, with the determination to achieve new exploits, drive the U.S. platoon of the country and liberate his home village.

(1) Major battles in which Son had taken part in Southern (Sa Nam).

VIET NAM COURIER

Editor's note. As reported in a previous issue, at the All South Viet Nam Fourth Conference on Guerrilla Warfare, the PLAF Command awarded to the people and PLAF of Ben Tre the title "Province Credited with Valiant Simultaneous Uprisings to Thrash U.S. Aggressors and Wipe out their Puppets."

At the 8th anniversary of the founding of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation was just celebrated, we publish a "Letter from Ben Tre" to acquaint the readers with the province, the credit of the province, the uprisings, in 1959-60 which heralded the birth of the NFL.

Dear Brother Hai,

LET me tell you, who are living far away, something about Ben Tre, our rich and populous province in the delta of the Mekong. It consists of three strings of islands and eight districts, 150 villages—an area of about 1,800 square kilometers hemmed in by four branches of the Mekong: Cao Dai, Ba Lai, Ham Luong and Co Chien.

Its 650,000 people live on the shores of the immense ocean, on the proceeds of rich salt marshes, immense ricefields, lush coconut groves, fertile sugar cane fields, fragrant gardens and fruit-laden orchards.

In the old days, pioneers came here to reclaim land from the jungle and hunt tigers. The history of the province is full of legends. It was the insurrection led by Nguyen Truc Truc in Ba Tri against the French invaders, violent demonstrations by the peasants of Ba Chau, Tan Xuan, Mo Cay in the years 1930 to 1940, led by Old Truong and Muoi An, etc. When the Revolution broke out in August 1945, the people, though armed merely with sword and bamboo spear, stormed the city and won power in the provincial capital.

In the nine-year resistance war against French colonialists, the people and armed forces of Ben Tre made a worthy contribution to victory. Following the restoration of peace, the people staged demonstrations in Mo Cay, Binh Dai to demand strict implementation of the Geneva Agreements. And then came the earth-shaking "simultaneous uprisings", the first ever launched in South Viet Nam. It was in Ben Tre that the ever-victorious "long-haired army" was born. In Ben Tre, as in all other regions of South Viet Nam, all "State policies" and other vicious schemes devised by the American imperialists against the puppets have been failed: law 10-59, "prosperity centres," "strategic villages," "pacification."

The popular forces have achieved resounding victories, destroying the enemy's black troops, Red to Yellow Hawks battalions in Thanh phong, An-thanh, Huu-dinh, Phung, On-latter-day Huu-dinh (1) like the Huu-lung, Ba-lai, Giong-trong, etc. rivers hundreds of American war vessels have been sunk. In the Go-tranh, Thanh-phong battles, large numbers of helicopters were destroyed. More recently, the Ben Tre provincial capital, the city of the people and other towns were rushed by the people's forces, their puppet garrisons completely flattened, and the puppet army's remnants routed.

At present, revolutionary administration bodies have been elected in more than 1,200 villages. The people are in control of more than 1,200 square kilometres of territory, with a population of nearly half a million living in happiness and freedom under the banner of the NFL.

I have thus given you a broad idea about Ben Tre. But you know the valiant uprisings staged by its people to "thrash the Americans

A letter from Ben Tre

and wipe out their puppets" were no walkover.

In the dark years before the insurrections, when the cruel fascist regime of the Americans and their puppets held sway with law 10-59, the provincial jails were crammed with patriots. Even schools and pagodas were turned into detention camps. Worse still, for lack of food, prisoners were kept in barbed-wire corrals, exposed to sun and rain. But the hearts of the 650,000 people of Ben Tre were so many smoldering volcanoes which, set off by a revolutionary spark, would flare up into a general conflagration and consume the Americans and their puppets.

At that time, we did not even have a ounce of iron. We had only our steel-like determination: "Rather death than servitude!" As

rivers and channels, bombs and shells, once fallen into the hands of the people, changed into deadly weapons.

"When the aggressor comes, even the women folk must take up arms," so runs an old saying. The "Long-haired army" came into being and, armed with the strength of justice, proved strong enough to stop whole divisions and shatter the morale of tens of thousands of enemy troops. Endless columns of women demonstrators carrying placards and NFL banners streamed into the towns, even the provincial capital, and fearlessly confronted the enemy. At present arms in hand, the women are fighting side by side with the PLAF, wiping out thousands of traitors, and regaining power in towns and cities.

Thousands, tens of thousands of former members of the puppet

Here is how the Tre offensive came in Ben Tre: hardly had the order come from the NFL, when the people of Ben Tre surged up like a tidal wave. One may say that this was a second wave of "simultaneous uprising", this time aimed at the urban centers. The people and armed forces of Ben Tre assaulted cities and towns, cut off all enemy communications, land and water, and tightened their encirclement of the provincial and military sectors. The puppet 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 10th battalions were annihilated, and so were all the 100,000 militia and reserve corps units. In the Huu-dinh and Phung-thanh battles two puppet battalions and one American battalion were wiped out.

On the fourth day of Tre, the Americans coming to the rescue of their puppets in the provincial capital lost one battalion. In the subsequent engagements, they suffered heavy setbacks wherever they went. All guerrillas in the province were capable of breaking the wings of the "flying eagles". School children, women supply carriers, old folks became destroyers of American helicopters and infantry. Let me tell you how the people fought against American river flotillas.

Just imagine: American vessels came in armada of two or three hundred, strung on the river Ham-luong along 30 kilometers! In the sky planelanes of all types roared and screamed.

But the people of Ben Tre knew how to cope with them. Fiber-glass launches were held up by turners made of coconut trees and cables. Shell duds were turned into mines.

So far even big vessels have been set afire or sunk, at first only a few small ones. At the same time, on October 3, 1968, when a vessel was sent to the bottom. Splendid feats have been cited: one fighter, The Sun, has so far distinguished himself with the destruction of ten American vessels; another, Hoang Lam, has not out of action yet.

All counterattacks mounted by the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and special assault 17th brigades of the American 9th Infantry Division, whether on land or water or even airborne, whether on a big or small scale, have been repelled with heavy adverse losses.

Dear Brother Hai, THE battle is still raging. The enemy still nursing delusions upon Ben Tre. And so its 650,000 staunch-hearted people will never be caught off guard. On the contrary they are resolved to overcome all hardships and difficulties, live up to the title "Province Credited with Valiant Uprisings to Thrash U.S. Aggressors and Wipe out their Puppets", and win final victory.

Sincerely yours,

CHI NHANH

(1) Name of a river in North Viet Nam. (2) So-called on account of its shape.



A PLAF UNIT BIVOUACKING
Water-coupled by Thanh Binh
(from South Viet Nam)

PHAN HANH SON

(Continued from page 12)

first not to come out just in front of another row. He immediately handed his shears to a combatant, then leaning his hands against an iron pole of the fence, vaulted over the second row. At the last row, he repeated this performance. Bursas were into his clothes and stopped him. He gathered strength and rolled rapidly over the thick row of barbed wire. As soon as he was on the other side, he bumped against a ranger who just happened to be there. He lured him in on the face and kicked him down a deep trench. Sticky blood was oozing out from his scratches. He clenched his teeth and putting all the strength he could muster in his arms, he lifted up the barbed wire entanglement for his comrades to move in. Trung and some other fighters who could catch up with Son, joined in propping up the wire fence. The whole unit crept into the position like a python. An enemy company moved out to counter-attack. Using enemy fortifications Son led a team and rushed forward to destroy its heavy machine gun nest. Hand grenades, hand bombs and automatic weapons fire rained on the puppet rangers. Shock troops of Phan Hanh Son's company surged forward and wiped out the enemy another. Then the puppet ranger company was completely destroyed.

Taking advantage of the enemy confusion and of the fact that his

fighting power was paralysed, Son split his unit into 3 groups to make deep thrusts into the heart of the stronghold. With 3 bursts of sub-machine gun fire, Son moved down to enemy soldiers trying to block the advance of the attackers and broke the enemy formations right in front of the U.S. machine gun nests in an opposite blockhouse. He was spitting fire. Son snatched a B-40 and fired a rocket which blew up the blockhouse and silenced the gun. With fixed bayonets, members of Son's company jumped into enemy fortifications and engaged the defenders in hand-to-hand fighting, wiping out one group after another, with hand-bombs, grenades and small arms fire. A GI bounced out of a tank barrack. His munitions running out, he came running towards him, caught him on the nose, snatched off his gun and kicked him into a mass of fire. The whole company set out for munition dumps, blockhouses and bunkers to hunt down the survivors.

Suddenly, bursts of heavy machine-gun fire were sent from the left flank of Son's unit to the North. A number of enemy remnant troops who had withdrawn were launching a counter-attack. At this time, 12 helicopter gunships whirled in and sprayed the burning battlefield with machine-gun bullets, sending a lightning pow-wow with Binh and Lang. An order was sent out: "Keep on their heels! No withdrawal until

NFL President Sends Message To American People

Giai Phong Press Agency has released the following letter dated Dec. 20, 1968, from the President of the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam (NFL) to the American people:

"On the occasion of Christmas and the New Year's Day, I wish, on behalf of the South Vietnamese people and the NFL, and in my own name, to extend to you my best greetings.

"I sincerely thank you for your great efforts to stop the war of aggression of the U.S. government against our country.

"Confronted with the violent and unrelenting struggle of the people throughout Viet Nam and under the impact of your own actions and of those of other peoples in the world, the U.S. government has been forced to end unconditionally its bombings and shelling on the whole territory of the DRVN and agree to a conference with the participation of

the DRVN, the South Viet Nam NFL, the United States and the Saigon Administration, to seek a political solution to the Viet Nam problem. This is an initial but very substantial victory of the Vietnamese people, of U.S. progressives and of peace- and justice-loving people all over the world.

"On the basis of its five points and with its earnestness and goodwill, the South Viet Nam NFL is ready to hold talks with the political leadership of the DRVN concerned to seek a political settlement of the South Viet Nam problem conformable to the aspirations of the South Vietnamese people for independence and peace and consistent with the legitimate interests of the American people.

"However, the U.S. government has not yet given up its aggressive design. It is indeed stubbornly stepping up its barbarous attacks in the South Viet Nam and perpetrating bloody crimes against our compatriots while continuing to grossly violate the sovereignty and threaten the security of the DRVN.

Prince Sihanouk Reaffirms Full Support for Viet Nam Position at Paris Conference

OPENING the 46th National People's Congress of Cambodia on Dec. 20, Head of State Norodom Sihanouk reaffirmed full support for the just position of the delegations of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and of the DRVN Government at the Paris Conference.

The Cambodian Head of State said:

"Cambodia demands that the U.S. stop completely its aggressive war in Viet Nam and unconditionally withdraw

all U.S. troops from South Viet Nam."

Referring to the Saigon puppet administration, Prince Norodom Sihanouk said that Cambodia "will never recognize the government of the South Viet Nam, particularly the so-called popular representatives of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique."

"At the Paris Conference, they only represent themselves and have no right to represent the Vietnamese people," he added.

"Cambodia reaffirms that

Moreover, the U.S. and the Saigon Administrations have been using every way and means to delay the quadripartite Paris conference.

"It is our conviction that you who inherit the American people's tradition of freedom and justice, will further intensify together with our people and the progressive people of the world, the pressure on the U.S. government to stop its aggression against Viet Nam, withdraw all troops of the U.S. and its satellites and all their weapons and war means from the South Viet Nam, leave the South Vietnamese people to settle their own internal affairs in accordance with the legitimate interests of the Vietnamese people, without foreign interference.

"The great struggle against the U.S. government's aggression for the legitimate interests of our two peoples and the interests of world peace, will certainly see complete victory.

"I wish you a happy New Year and new successes."

only the delegation of the DRVN Government and that of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation are the representatives of the Vietnamese people at the Paris conference," the Prince stressed.

140 Million WFTU Members Will Always Be On The Fighting Vietnamese People's Side

THE 18th session of the General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions, held in Berlin from Dec. 16 to Dec. 19, approved a resolution on Viet Nam. The resolution warmly acclaimed the magnificent victory of the Vietnamese people in both zones in the fight against the U.S. aggressors, especially those won by the South Viet Nam armed forces and people in the course of the generalized offensives and uprisings started at the beginning of 1968 under the glorious banner of the NFL. The victories of the Vietnamese people, the resolution said, have forced the U.S. unconditional bombing halt on the whole territory of the DRVN.

The resolution acclaimed the good-will of the DRVN Government and the South Viet Nam NFL which have agreed to take part in the Paris quadripartite Conference. It protested against the U.S. continued step up of the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, encroaching upon the sovereignty, threatening the security of the DRVN and U.S.

New Successful Hydrogen Bomb Test By China

Hsinhua (New China) Agency reported that, on Dec. 27, China exploded a new hydrogen bomb in the Western part of her territory and conducted successfully a new hydrogen nuclear test, which marked a new leap forward of her advanced science and technology. This splendid success clearly testifies to the vigorous and steady progress made by China in the research on, and the manufacture and testing of, nuclear weapons. Within a short time, from Oct. 1964 to June 1967, China carried out many successful tests of atomic bomb, thermo-nuclear bomb, teleguided missile with nuclear warhead and hydrogen bomb.

Her advance is all the more evident when compared with the United States, a big capitalist power having a developed industry, which took eight years from the first atomic bomb to a hydrogen bomb. The new achievement of China proves that she is constantly perfecting the different kinds of her nuclear weapons.

The Vietnamese people greatly rejoice at this event. They take this opportunity to convey their warmest congratulations to the Party, Government and brotherly people of China and to the Chinese workers, cadres and the People's Liberation Army and to all Chinese scientific and technical workers.

China's successful building of a prosperous and powerful country as well as her development of nuclear weapons is irrefutable proof of the superiority of socialism. It is a splendid success of the 700 million Chinese who, under the leadership of the glorious Communist Party of China headed by esteemed Chairman Mao Tse-tung, constantly raising their revolutionary spirit and working with industry and creativeness, have within less than twenty years, turned the poor and backward China of the past into a big power endowed with modern industry, agriculture, national defence, science and technology.

The Vietnamese people greatly rejoice at this event. They take this opportunity to convey their warmest congratulations to the Party, Government and brotherly people of China and to the Chinese workers, cadres and the People's Liberation Army and to all Chinese scientific and technical workers.

10th Anniversary of Cuba's Liberation Commemorated in Hanoi

A grand meeting in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Cuba's National Day was held in Hanoi on Dec. 30 under the joint sponsorship of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the Viet Nam-Cuba Friendship Association and the DRVN Commission for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. It was attended by representatives of government services, mass organizations and public personalities.

After the opening speech of Vice-Premier Nguyen Day Trinh, Political Bureau member of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, Hoang Tung, alternate member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, President of the Viet Nam Cuba Friendship Association, delivered a speech praising the big achievements in all fields recorded by the fraternal Cuban people in the last ten years under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Premier Fidel Castro, particularly the results of the revolutionary offensive since early this year.

Hoang Tung pointed out:

"A revolutionary spirit of offensive is prevailing in all spheres of economic and ideological life in Cuba. In this stirring atmosphere of production and struggle stands out the image of the new Cuban who is eagerly engaged in work and study, who deeply hates the imperialist aggressors and their henchmen and ardently loves his militant friends in all lands.

"From the status of slaves groaning for centuries under the iron yoke of the imperialists and colonialists, the heroic Cuban people have been tempered through

a hundred years of revolutionary struggle and ten years of the socialist revolution. They have now become a completely free, revolutionary people."

"The victory of Cuba's revolution," he added, "once again proves to the world's peoples that a nation whose territory is not very large and whose population not very numerous but who are united and one-minded, who fear no sacrifice, fight dauntlessly and know how to fight are capable of defeating any aggressor, be it U.S. imperialism, chief-tain of the imperialists, or once having become a free people, are likely to grow quickly and become many times stronger in a relatively short period of history."

Hoang Tung denounced the aggressive schemes of the U.S. imperialists and their blockade against Cuba, and declared: "We resolutely support the Cuban people's indomitable struggle against U.S. provocation and threats of aggression. We sternly condemn the reactionary administration of the Latin American countries who, tailing after the U.S., are pursuing a hostile policy toward socialist Cuba."

On behalf of the Viet Nam people, Hoang Tung voiced great gratitude to the Party, Government and the entire fraternal people of Cuba for their unqualified, considerable and valuable support and assistance. He expressed the wish that under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba, headed by Premier Fidel Castro, the Cuban people would score greater successes in socialist construction, in the struggle against U.S. aggression to defend Cuba, and in their assistance to the revolutionary struggle of the other peoples in Latin America and throughout the world.

ACCORDING to the war communiques released by Giai Phong Press Agency during the past week, the theatre of operation in Eastern Nam Bo which consists of the provinces surrounding Saigon was by far the hottest, and where the enemy forces suffered the most disastrous defeats.

First, in Tay Ninh province to the Northwest of Saigon, on Dec. 23, the regional troops of the PLAF destroyed a U.S. company as with other enemy forces it was raiding Ban Co village, 94 km Northwest of Saigon.

On Dec. 24, ignoring the Christmas truce observed by the PLAF, a swarm of U.S. helicopters landed troops near Ta Pang, 35 km Southwest of Ban Co and took Northwest of Saigon. The regional troops of the PLAF and the guerrillas brought down 5 enemy copters, killing or wounding every troop on board and seizing all their armaments. On Dec. 25, a puppet ranger company dispatched to the scene of the previous U.S. disaster was also completely cut out of action, losing all its weapons. Next day, another puppet ranger company went to Ta Pang experienced the same fate. In the afternoon, a relief column was rushed in and was probably intercepted and lost a 3rd company. Thus, in 4 days in a row, apart from the 5 helicopters shot down with all men on board killed or wounded, the American aggressors and their puppets lost infantry companies in Tay Ninh province.

Further to the Northeast, near Hon Quan, a provincial capital 95 km North of Saigon, successes no less brilliant were obtained by the patriots. On Dec. 23, a position of puppet Regiment 9 at Hui Dai, 2 km North of Hon Quan, came under heavy fire from the PLAF which destroyed one enemy company. On Dec. 27, in an ambush on Route No 13 at An Loc (5 km North of Hon Quan) the patriots wrecked 20 vehicles of a U.S. motorized unit. 140 G.I.s were killed or wounded and 3 choppers downed in this battle.

About 40 km further to the Northeast of Hon Quan, on Dec. 19, a company of

MILITARY OPERATIONS 11 Enemy companies wiped out in 7 days on Saigon Front

- 4 in Tay Ninh province on December 23, 25 and 26
- 1 near Hon Quan on December 23
- 2 near Phuoc Binh on December 19 and 20
- 2 near Xuan Loc on December 21
- 2 East of Saigon on December 22

"flying horsemen" was wiped out in a one-hour battle at Dao Cat, near the provincial capital of Phuoc Binh, 17 km North-Northeast of Saigon. Next morning, another company of the same unit was written off the musterroll, when it ventured into the previous battleground.

At a rubber plantation 1 km Northeast of the provincial capital of Xuan Loc and 60 km East-Northeast of Saigon, the PLAF on Dec. 21 violently assaulted puppet paratroop battalion 5. After 3 hours' fighting, they destroyed the battalion HQ, 2 companies, an artillery site and the radio station. The dead included 15 U.S. advisers and many puppet army officers.

Next day, at about 30 km South-Northeast of Saigon, the patriots put companies of puppet division 18 out of action and completely wiped out a "pacification" team at Phuoc Tho.

Lastly, on the Long Tau shipping channel linking Saigon to the sea, Liberation guerrillas hit a 10,000-ton cargo ship 2 km Southeast of the city. The craft, the 3rd damaged on this river within 3 weeks, was ravaged by a big fire touched off by the patriots' shells.

In the Western Highlands, at Hon Cong near An Khe (25 km South-Southeast of Ban Nang) a commando of the PLAF destroyed a major part of a U.S. officers' camp on the night of Dec. 21 causing nearly 20 casualties.

In the Mekong Delta where the enemy was conduct-

ing operations under his "accelerated pacification programme", the patriotic regional forces of My Tho province, swinging into action between Dec. 5 and Dec. 10, along Highway No 4 linking Saigon to the delta province, put out of action nearly 500 U.S.-puppet troops, 350 of them on Dec. 6 alone.

On the Plain of Reeds River, 500 enemy troops were killed or wounded, including 65 G.I.s in the sector of Cao Lanh, a provincial capital 120 km West-Southwest of Saigon, between Dec. 5 and Dec. 13, and 200 others in Hong Ngu district (15 km West of Saigon) between Dec. 15 and Dec. 20. In the latter place, 130 puppet soldiers chose to desert in the same period.

In Western Nam Bo, from Dec. 5 to Dec. 12, the enemy sustained in 5 districts of the 2 provinces of Bach Ma and Can Tho, 400 casualties and the loss of 18 vessels of a riverine task force sunk or burnt. The adverse command had to break off the operation. On the night of Dec. 27, Western news agencies reported, the PLAF fanned the enemy in Can Tho — and biggest city of ex-Cochin China, and in the Phong Nhieu centre, 25 km further South.

In other theatres of operations, the following most remarkable actions of the PLAF were reported:

— In the Mekong Delta where the enemy was conduct-



Albanian people demonstrate in support of Viet Nam

NFL FREES U.S. POW'S

THE representatives of the People's Liberation Armed Forces Command in Eastern Nam Bo handed over 31 American prisoners of war to the U.S. side at 8.40 pm January 1st at Ta Xiem, 9.3 km southwest of Tay Ninh provincial capital.

This took place, GFA said, after the U.S. had complied with the procedural term for the reception of the American POWs released by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

The three men freed are James W. Brigham, Thomas N. Jones and Donald G. Smith.

Before boarding their planes, they once again thanked the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation for its lenient and humane treatment.

Donald G. Smith, father of Donald, is reported by UPI to have expressed his gratitude to the NFL for "taking care of our son, for keeping him alive."



PLAF men fraternize with the people in a newly liberated town

IN THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

A gallant fighter of the South Viet Nam PLAF

PHAN HANH SON

- 21 years of age
- 3 years of distinguished service
- Over 100 battles
- 474 enemy troops killed, wounded or captured
- 28 times cited as "Valiant Fighter" of the PLAF

Ed. Company leader Phan Hanh Son of Hoa Vang district (Southern Da Nang), 21 years of age, and 3 years of distinguished service, has fought the enemy in over 100 battles, in all wiping out 454 adverse troops, capturing 474 others, seizing 28 weapons and shooting down 2 aircraft, and has been 28 times awarded the "Anti-U.S. Valiant Fighter

distinction."

Recently, he won the "Standard-bearer of shock fighters," and "Outstanding commander in the period of general offensives" titles. We now give an account of one of his successful battles, hoping to give our readers some glimpses of the numerous feats of this gallant fighter of the South Viet Nam PLAF.

THIS time Son received his assignment with unusual emotion. He could see in his mind's eye the whole picture of his native village. His mother's words at the send-off on the Tet eve still rang in his ears: "Fear in mind that your Dad is in such a bad way. The U.S. aggressors are all lackeys. What use, sonny, thinking about Spring when we have not enough to eat even at Tet? Join the Revolution and return as early as you could to liberate your home village..."

Standing deep in thought before his commanders, Son promised to himself to devote heart and soul to securing success for the corps. The time was August 1968 when Son was given orders to prepare the terrain at the Non Nuoc base camp so that the unit could be moved in for the destruction of this enemy position.

Non Nuoc was a string of forts with rows of tent barracks and a multitude of blockhouses and bunkers looking like giant mushrooms round the foot of Mount Non Nuoc. Commanding the Southern area, Da Nang city, it was the base of a puppet ranger unit notorious for its atrocities and well covered by American units in the surrounding area. Behind it was the Nuoc Nam airfield where hundreds of helicopter gunships with masses of GIs stood by round the clock to fly support mis-

sions. Innumerable blockhouses, big and small, bristling with guns of all calibers, were planted like sharp spears on the top of Mount Non Nuoc, ready to spit fire in all directions. There were many other positions built into a solid defence belt to give this military complex such a watertight protection that infiltration from outside was thought impossible.

No map, however, could bar the way to company leader Phan Hanh Son and his scouts. The call of his home village, the picture of his father, the sad plight of his mother seemed to infuse new strength into him.

He spent many sleepless nights, neck deep in the sticky sea water, to map the enemy layout. Many days Phan Hanh Son and his comrades hid themselves under the sun-scorched sandy beach through the blistering heat of the dry season in this coastal area, or sneaked through no-man's-lands entangled with barbed wire and dotted with blockhouses and posts to get well inside the stronghold. At times, his whole team was trapped by cordons of enemy raiding troops, and often enough Son and his mates, busy watching the enemy movements, chose to bear the agony of hunger and thirst with the prospect seen of purpose. In all sorts of disguises, now moving about as an ordinary citizen, now posing himself as a puppet army officer, Son got the cue to a maze of intelligence

information and slipped into the enemy hide-out to count every enemy blockhouse, every row of barbed-wire fence, every gun pit and every nook and cranny in the system of defence, map out the safest routes of approach for the unit, and work out tricks to cope with any contingency. When finishing his long and patient study of the enemy position he rejoined his unit, his men hardly recognizing their commander. He got up, burns all over his body which had patches of lighter skin, and he had lost flesh visibly.

On behalf of the scout team, he made a detailed report on the enemy situation and his routine, showing the loop holes in his defence and suggesting a superb and daring operational plan. His plan was supplemented by his comrades' ideas and approved by his superior. The attacking forces got the marching orders. Son's company was assigned the task of delivering the main blow directly at Non Nuoc stronghold. On the night Aug. 22, 1968, the unit set off. The combatants quietly advanced in the direction of the enemy post, in the light of coloured flares fired into the air or dropped from aircraft by the enemy. Arriving at destination, they sank into the white sandy beach and waited. Twin-engine aircraft hovered overhead and dropped flares that lit up the whole area. Swarms of helicopter gunships flew observation missions and pelted suspected

areas with machine-gun bullets. Ultra-powerful searchlights from nearby posts swept close to the ground. Hundreds of thousands of electric lights at Nuoc Nam airfield and the ranger camp at Non Nuoc, together with searchlights and flares, brilliantly lit up the glittering sandy beach and the pale blue sea surface with its glimmering stars, making enemy patrolmen stand out as grey silhouettes.

Son felt anxiety gnaw at his stomach. He racked his brain for a way to lead his unit safely across the 500-metre sand dune. As the enemy swung his searchlights in another direction, together with political instructor Binh and company deputy commander Lang, he led the unit and dashed towards the enemy position. A one-man thrust into Non Nuoc was already a tough job. It was much tougher indeed to bring in a whole unit at the same time. Hardly the whole unit had crossed the sand dunes when friendly units began opening up. Son was burning with impatience. A split second of lagging now would let the opportunity to wipe out the enemy slip away and bring disadvantage to us. He led the shock team and moved as fast as he could towards the barbed-wire fences. Once near the entanglements, he started cutting through them without let up. He got through the

(Continued page 6)

Revolutionary Power set up in Quang Ngai province

A statement released by Gist Phong Press Agency, the NLF of Quang Ngai informed the people in the province that U.S.-puppet regime had been deposed and revolutionary power at provincial level instituted.

The statement made known that since the launching of the generalized attacks and uprisings of the armed forces and people of Quang Ngai, 34 villages of this province with a population of more than 45,000 had been completely liberated. Elections to people's revolutionary councils have been held with heavy polling in 12 districts and 134 villages.

The Quang Ngai NLF declared that it had ousted the U.S.-installed puppet administration in this province, at all levels—village, district and provincial. Anyone who persists in serving the U.S. aggressors will be punished, and guilty people who show repentance and want to mend their way will be forgiven and even awarded if they have rendered service to the national cause.

The Quang Ngai NLF also declared that the people's revolutionary committee had been set up at provincial level to organize and lead the struggle of the local people until complete victory over the U.S. aggressors.

LATEST NEWS

Buon Ho position completely destroyed, 600 U.S.-puppet casualties

At 2 a.m. on Dec 28 last, Gist Phong Press Agency reported, the PLAF launched an attack in force against a big enemy troop concentration area in Buon Ho (20km Northeast of Saigon), the district town, the military sub-sector H-Q, the command post of a regular battalion, 2 companies of guards, 9 platoons of field police and civil-guards and a "pacification" team.

In the very first minute of the attack, the enemy radio centre was destroyed and after 45 minutes' fighting, the PLAF seized full control of the terrain after having inflicted 600 casualties, including a U.S. major and the major, deputy chief of staff of puppet Regiment 45, who commanded the "accelerated pacification" operation in this sector. Apart from the radio centre, the PLAF destroyed 3 105mm howitzers, 3 heavy mortars, 15 machine guns, 28 blockhouses and casemates and 3 fuel and ammunition dumps. All patriots detained in this sector were liberated and sent back to their native villages.



My Thuan (Soi Trang Province) people sending off their sons to the Liberation Army.

ALL FOR VICTORY OVER U.S. AGGRESSORS